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## NOTES ON PHILIPPINE BIRDS (NO. 1)

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## INTRODUCTION

In the last few years the Delaware Museum of Natural History (DMNH) has received several small collections of birds from the Philippines. In preparation for my book *Philippine Birds,* I have found several interesting new records, which are commented on here; these include the description of five new subspecies, retraction of a previously described subspecies, one new record for Palawan, one subspecies previously unrecorded from the Philippines, and the correction of a misidentification.


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## FAMILY ANATIDAE DUCKS

***Anas crecca crecca* Linné, 1758**

1 ♂, Dec. 1970, Iwahig, Palawan
Not previously recorded from Palawan.

## FAMILY ACCIPITRIDAE HAWKS

***Pernis ptilorhynchus philippensis* Mayr, 1939**

A specimen was recorded from Bataan, Luzon, by deSchauensee and duPont (1959:2), but reexamination of the specimen proves it to be *Pernis celebensis steerei* Sclater, 1919, a known inhabitant of Luzon.

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## FAMILY STRIGIDAE OWLS

***Ninox scutulata* (Raffles, 1822)**

In addition to the wintering race, *N. s. japonica* (Temminck and Schlegel, 1850), there is a resident race, *N. s. randi,* described by Deignan in 1951. He also suggested that *N. s. florensis* (Wallace, 1864) might reach the Philippines. Recent material confirms his suspicions.

***Ninox scutulata randi* Deignan, 1951**

1 ♀, Oct. 5, 1958, Gapan, Nueva Ecija, Luzon, CM 139223
1 ♀, Nov. 29, 1958, Nueva Vizcaya, Luzon, DMNH 1280
1 ♂, March 1970, Boac, Marinduque, DMNH 4332

These are new records for this subspecies which was originally known from Mindoro, Cebu, Siquijor, Mindanao, and Basilan.

***Ninox scutulata florensis* (Wallace, 1864)**

1 ♀, Oct. 3, 1958, San Jose, Nueva Ecija, Luzon, CM 139278
2 ♀, Dec. 1969, Ipo Dam, Bulacan, Luzon, DMNH 3949 and 3950

Not previously recorded from the Philippines.

## FAMILY ALCEDINIDAE KINGFISHERS

***Alcedo meninting* Horsfield, 1821**

Examination of the Philippine birds quite clearly shows that there are two races present. Peters (1945:174) states that "birds from Palawan and the Sulu group of the Philippine Islands are usually referred here (= *A. m. meninting*), perhaps erroneously." However, the Sulu birds match the Borneo birds and should be called *A. m. verreauxii* De La Berge, 1851. The Palawan birds differ and may be called:

***Alcedo meninting amadoni* new subspecies**

Type DMNH 4663, ♂ Iwahig, Palawan, P. I., 100′, May 1970. Wing 67; tail 32; bill 41; tarsus 9.

Diagnosis: Differs from *A. m. verreauxii* De La Berge, 1851, of Borneo and the Sulu Archipelago (Bongao, Jolo, Tawi Tawi) by having the blue of the upperparts more azure-blue. In a series the rufous underparts are somewhat paler.

Range: Palawan.

Specimens examined: *verreauxii*—North Borneo 3 ♂, 3 ♀; Tawi Tawi 2 ♂, 1 ♀; Jolo 1 ♀; Bongao 1 ♀. *amadoni*—Palawan 6 ♂, 9 ♀.

Etymology: This new subspecies is named for Dr. Dean Amadon of the American Museum of Natural History.

## FAMILY **TIMALIIDAE** BABBLERS

***Napothera rabori* Rand, 1960**

This genus of babbling thrushes was unknown in the Philippine Archipelago until Dr. Austin L. Rand described *Napothera rabori* from northern Luzon. Shortly thereafter, in 1967, Drs. Rand and Rabor described *Napothera sorsogonensis* from southern Luzon. It is most unfortunate that the only two known specimens of *rabori* are immatures; however, they do have enough adult feathers to show their subspecific relationship to *sorsogonensis,* especially with the discovery of a third population that is clearly intermediate. The latter may be called:

***Napothera rabori mesoluzonica* new subspecies**

Type DMNH 10800, ♂ Barrio Savay, Pakil, Laguna, Luzon, P. I., 1100′, April 1971. Wing 98; tail 84; bill 25; tarsus 32.

Diagnosis: Crown, hind neck, and back dark red-brown with black margins to feathers; elongated fluffy rump feathers and tail dark red-brown; primary wing-coverts black terminated with a white spot; rest of wing dark brown with outer red-brown margins to feathers; feathers of face gray with white shaft streaks; chin and throat white with a black jugular stripe on either side; breast dark gray; center of belly white; flanks chestnut; thighs and under tail-coverts dull red-brown. Differs from *N. r. rabori* to the north by having the black margins of the crown and back narrower and the chestnut and red-brown underparts lighter. Differs from *N. r. sorsogonensis* to the south by having the upperparts darker, with black margins to the feathers of the crown and back (these margins are almost completely lacking in *sorsogonensis*); gray breast band wider, flanks and under tail-coverts richer.

Range: Known only from type locality.

Etymology: The name of the new subspecies is derived from Greek: *meso,* meaning middle or center, and *luzonica,* for the island of Luzon.

## FAMILY **NECTARINIIDAE** SUNBIRDS

***Nectarinia sperata* Linnaeus, 1766**

Specimens recently received from Marinduque show that there is an undescribed race there; it may be called:

***Nectarinia sperata marinduquensis* new subspecies**

Type DMNH 4400, ♀ Barrio Canat, Boac, Marinduque, P. I., 350′, March 1970. Wing 51; tail 28; bill 18; tarsus 13.5.

DIAGNOSIS: Female—differs from *N. s. sperata* by having the lower back, rump, and upper tail-coverts dark red instead of dark olive-green; outer margins to primaries and secondaries darker burnt orange. Males—similar to those of *N. s. sperata.*

RANGE: Marinduque.

ETYMOLOGY: This new subspecies is named for the island on which it was first discovered.

## FAMILY ZOSTEROPIDAE WHITE-EYES

***Zosterops montana* Bonaparte, 1851**

The white-eyes of the Philippines are a very interesting but, for some, a difficult group of birds. I agree with Mayr's implication (Peters, 1945:301, footnote) that Mees overdid his lumping of the races of *montana,* at least in the Philippines.

Mees (1969:271) stated that "a certain amount of confusion between *Z. m. montana* and *Z. everetti basilanica* may also have taken place in the paper of these authors," deSchauensee and duPont (1962:171); however, reexamination of these specimens proves there was no misidentification of species.

Salomonsen (1962:131) was the first to report this species from Palawan but erred in saying that it did not differ from the Luzon population. Therefore, the Palawan birds may be called:

***Zosterops montana parkesi* new subspecies**

Type AMNH 788888, ♂ Mt. Mantalingajan, Palawan, P. I., 5500–6000′, April 14, 1962. Wing 58; tail 39; bill 12; tarsus 11.

DIAGNOSIS: Differs from *whiteheadi* of Luzon by having the upperparts much yellower green, forehead and face golden green, eye-ring bolder, chin and throat richer yellow and more extensive, flanks same whitish color of breast and belly, and under tail-coverts richer yellow. It is also larger: wing 6 ♂ 55–58 (av. 56.3); 4 ♀ 54–55 (av. 54.7) vs. *whiteheadi* 7 ♂ 49–53 (av. 50.1); 5 ♀ 46–49 (av. 47.4).

RANGE: Mountains of Palawan.

ETYMOLOGY: This new subspecies is named for Dr. Kenneth C. Parkes of the Carnegie Museum.

Specimens of Zosteropidae recently received from Marinduque not only are a new family record for the island but also prove to be a new race. It may be called:

***Zosterops montana gilli* new subspecies**

Type DMNH 11145, ♂ Matabang Bundok, Kilo-Kilo, Sta. Cruz, Marinduque, P. I., 1000–1500′, May 1971. Wing 52; tail 43; bill 14; tarsus 16.5.

Diagnosis: Nearest to *Z. m. halconensis* of Mindoro but differs by having the upperparts brighter yellowish olive-green; yellow of chin, throat, and under tail-coverts brighter and more extensive.

Range: Marinduque.

Specimens examined: *halconensis*—Mindoro 1 ♂, 2 ♀; *gilli*—Marinduque 6 ♂, 4 ♀.

Etymology: This new subspecies is named for Dr. Frank Gill of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

***Hypocryptadius cinnamomeus* Hartert, 1903**

In recent times two subspecies have been described: *H. c. malindangensis* Rand and Rabor, 1957, and *H. c. pallidigula* deSchauensee and duPont, 1962; but reexamination of the old material and recent material from the type localities proves that the races were described by comparing old, badly foxed specimens to fresh specimens. Moreover, the series of new material was too small to show color variation within the local population. Therefore, there is no variation on Mindanao and the species evidently has no geographical races, as suggested by Mayr (1967:326, footnote).

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